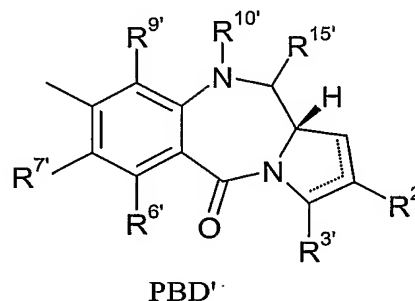
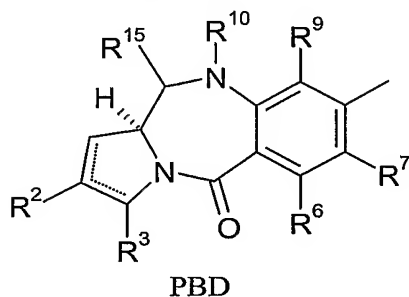


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):

5 $\text{PBD-A-Y-X-(Het)}_{na}\text{-L-(Het)}_{nb}\text{-L-(Het)}_{nc}\text{-T-(Het')}_{nd}\text{-L-(Het')}_{ne}\text{-L-(Het')}_{nf}\text{-X'-Y'-A'-PBD'}$
(I)

and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein



10 with the bonds at the 8 position on each molecule bond to the A and A' groups respectively.

the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

15 R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH₂, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO₂-R, CO₂R and COR;

R^6 , R^7 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo; where R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups; or

20 R^6 and R^7 together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;

R^{10} is a nitrogen protecting group and R^{15} is either O-R¹¹, where R^{11} is a hydroxyl protecting group; or

R^{15} is OH, =O or =S; or

R^{10} and R^{15} together form a double bond between C10 and N11;

25 A is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond;

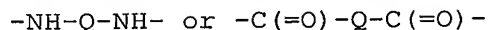
Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond;

X and X' are both either NH or C(=O);

each Het and Het' is independently an amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl group;

30 each L is independently selected from β-alanine, glycine, 4-aminobutanoic acid and a single bond;

T is a divalent linker group of the form:



wherein Q is a divalent group such that HQ = R;

A', Y', Het', R^{2'}, R^{3'}, R^{6'}, R^{7'}, R^{9'}, R^{10'}, R^{11'} and R^{15'} are all

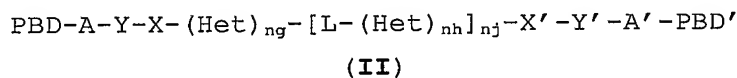
- 5 independently selected from the same lists as previously defined for A, Y, Het, R², R³, R⁶, R⁷, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹⁵ respectively; na, nb, nc, nd, ne and nf are each independently 0 to 5 and the sum na + nb + nc + nd + ne + nf is 0 to 16.

- 10 2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the sums na + nb + nc and nd + ne + nf are equal.

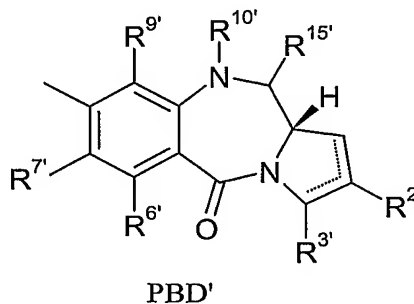
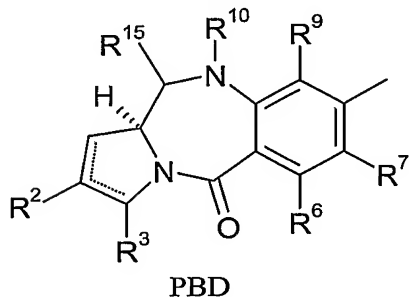
3. A compound according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein Het and Het' are nitrogen containing heteroaryl units.

15

4. A compound of formula (II):



- 20 and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein



the bonds at the 8 position on PBD and PBD' bond to A and A' groups respectively;

- 25 the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

R² and R³ are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH₂, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO₂-R, CO₂R and COR;

R⁶, R⁷ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH,

- 30 SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo; where R and R' are

- independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups; or
R⁶ and R⁷ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;
R¹⁰ is a nitrogen protecting group and R¹⁵ is either O-R¹¹, where
5 R¹¹ is a hydroxyl protecting group; or
R¹⁵ is OH, =O or =S; or
R¹⁰ and R¹⁵ together form a double bond between C10 and N11;
A is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond;
Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond;
10 each Het is independently an amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl group;
each L is independently selected from β-alanine, glycine, 4-aminobutanoic acid and a single bond;
A', Y', R^{2'}, R^{3'}, R^{6'}, R^{7'}, R^{9'}, R^{10'}, R^{11'} and R^{15'} are all
independently selected from the same lists as previously defined
15 for A, Y, Het, R², R³, R⁶, R⁷, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹⁵ respectively;
ng is 1 to 5, nh is 1 to 5 and nj is 0 to 3
X and X' are either NH and C(=O) respectively or C(=O) and NH respectively.
- 20 5. A compound according to claim 4, wherein the total number of
Het groups in the compound represented by the sum ng + (nj x nh)
is 1 to 3.
- 25 6. A compound according to either claim 4 or claim 5, wherein
Het are nitrogen containing heteroarylene units.
7. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,
wherein PBD and PBD' are the same.
- 30 8. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,
wherein R⁹ and R^{9'} are H.
9. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,
wherein R², R³, R^{2'} and R^{3'} are independently selected from R and
35 H.

10. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,
wherein R⁶ and R^{6'} are independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH,
NH₂, nitro and halo.
- 5 11. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,
wherein R⁷ and R^{7'} are independently selected from H, OR, SH, SR,
NH₂, NHR, NRR' and halo.
- 10 12. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,
wherein R¹⁰ and R¹⁵ together form a double bond between N10 and
C11 and R^{10'} and R^{15'} together form a double bond between N10' and
C11'.
- 15 13. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein
R¹⁰ and R^{10'} are independently selected from H, BOC, Troc and
alloc, and R¹¹ and R^{11'} are independently selected from OH, THP or
a silyl oxygen protecting group.
- 20 14. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for use in
a method of therapy.
- 25 15. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of any
one of claims 1 to 13, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier
or diluent.
- 30 16. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 in
the manufacture of a medicament for treating a proliferative
disease.
17. A method of treatment of a proliferative disease, comprising
administering to a subject in need of treatment a
therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of any one of
claims 1 to 13.